Operation of private air taxis in the country

33. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to encourage private airlines to operate in the country;

(b) how many companies are operating such services at present;

(c) whether any complaints have been received regarding excess charges levied by private airlines; and

(d) if so, what action Government are contemplating to regulate the fare structure?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Under the scheme of air taxi operations, permission is given to specified categories of applicants to operate air services which are on charter and/or non-scheduled basis;

(b) At present, 9 air taxi operators are provding air services.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the existing guidelines, there is no provision for regulation of fare structure of air taxi operators.

Safety conditions in Indian Airlines

34. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether several experts have pointed out the safety conditions are being violated by the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to improve air safety?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Whenever violation of safety regulations by Indian Airlines is brought to the notice of DGCA, appropriate action is taken by them. Measures, such as implementation of recommendation emanating from infestigation of aircraft accidents, dissemination of safety information, monitoring of cockpit voice recorders, carrying out periodic inspection of aerodromes, implementation of measures for eradication of bird menace at airports etc., are taken to improve air safety.

Privatisation of ITDC Hotels

35. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise some ITDC hotels under the disinvestment policy of Government;

(b) if so, what are the ITDC hotels that have been identified therefor; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Government have formulated a scheme whereby small groups of ITDC hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with leading foreign hotel chains. Under this scheme ITDC has invited bids for participation in the equity of the joint venture companies from foreign international hotel chains though no final decision has been taken so far. However, there is no proposal to disinvest equity of ITDC.

Crash landing of leased Uzbek aircraft

38. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the crash landing of a leased Uzbek passenger aircraft at Delhi airport on the 9th January, 1993;